

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 INT-08 EB-11 XMB-07 AID-20 TRSE-00

DRC-01 GSA-02 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 DOTE-00 /196 W

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R 021430Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7530

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, UV

SUBJECT: TAMBAO MANGANESE PROJECT

1. THREE-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TAMBAO MANGANESE PROJECT CONCLUDED ON JANUARY 31. GOUV ORGANIZED MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINING CONCERNS AND INTERNATIONAL LENDING GROUPS TO DISCUSS EXPLOITATION OF MANGANESE DEPOSITS AND CONSTRUCTION OF RAILROAD FROM OUAGA TO TAMBAO. FIRMS IN ATTENDANCE WERE UNION CARBIDE (AMERICAN), SOCIETE MINIERE MANGAEESE (FRENCH), MITSUI (JAPANESE), INCOTRA (SWISS), AND ROMANIAN STATE TRADING COMPANY. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDED FAC, FED, IBRD, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND UNDP. CANADA, WEST GERMANY AND RAN RAILROAD REPS ALSO ATTENDED.

2. PRIME MINISTER GERARD OUEDRAOGO DELIVERED OPENING REMARKS AT TUESDAY'S SESSION. PM UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE VOLTANS ATTACH TO PROJECT AND SAID CONSTRUCTION OF RAILROAD WOULD HELP OPEN UP ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF ENTIRE LIP-
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TAKO-GOURMA AREA. HE ADDED THAT AMOUNT OF INVESTMENT

NEEDED FOR RAILROAD NOW STOOD AT CFA 11 BILLION (\$40 MILLION).

3. ATTITUDE ON PART OF MINING COMPANIES WAS GENERAL FAVORABLE. UNION CARBIDE TOOK MOST POSITIVE POSITION ANNOUNCING THAT THEY WERE READY TO PARTICIPATE AND PUT UP ALL NECESSARY MINING (NOT RR) INVESTMENTS IN RETURN FOR EXCLUSIVE MINING CONCESSION. ROMANIANS AND SWISS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST. JAPANESE TOOK NO POSITION. RESULTS FROM JAPANESE MISSION WHICH VISITED UPPER VOLTA IN NOV. ARE STILL BEING EXAMINED IN TOKYO. UNION CARBIDE'S QUICK ENDORSEMENT WAS DESIGNED REBUT LONGSTANDING ARGUMENT BY LENDERS THAT NO MINING COMPANIES WERE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN TAMBAO AND TO PUT PRESSURE ON LENDERS TO COME UP WITH RAILROAD FINANCING. VOLTANS RESPONDED VERY FAVORABLY TO UNION CARBIDE'S POSITION.

4. RAN REP PROVIDED INFO ON EXTENSION OF LINE TO TAMBAO. COSTS OF SINGLE TRACK CONSTRUCTION 345 KM TO SITE WAS ESTIMATED AT CFA 9 MILLION IN 1972. RAN HAS ALREADY COMPLETED ALIGNMENT STUDY ON SECTION BETWEEN OUAGA AND KAYA. REMAINDER OF ROUTE IS UNDER STUDY. HE ALSO DISCUSSED MAJOR REFURBISHING PROGRAM ON ABIDJAN OUAGA PORTION OF RAILROAD.

5. ATTITUDE ON PART OF DONORS WAS GENERALLY NEGATIVE WITH ONLY AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MAKING POSITIVE COMMITMENT FOR UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT. FED REPS WERE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC BUT REQUESTED MORE DETAILS. IBRD AND FAC WERE NON-COMMITTAL. CANADIAN AND WEST GERMAN REPS SAID THEIR GOVERNMENTS WERE NOT INTERESTED.

6. VOLTANS WILL NOW GO BACK TO DRAWING BOARDS TO PREPARE ADDITIONAL DATA AND DEVELOP UP-DATED COST FIGURES FOR RENEWED PITCH TO DONORS.

7. COMMENT: VOLTANS WERE DISAPPOINTED OVER LACK OF COMMITMENT BY IBRD; GOUV WAS OBVIOUSLY LOOKING TO BANK TO TAKE LEAD IN DONOR FINANCING. BANK REP (EL-MAAROUFI) EXPLAINED THAT IBRD IS PRESENTLY EVALUATING MAJOR OTAM STUDY ON TAMBAO AND PREFERS TO WAIT BEFORE TAKING POSITION. HE POINTED OUT THAT, IN ANY CASE, IDA CONCESSION-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARY FINANCING WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE.
BULLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MANGANESE, EXPLORATION, CONSTRUCTION, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES), RAILROADS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OUAGAD00207
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740260/aaaacdtf.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TAMBEO MANGANESE PROJECT
TAGS: EMIN, UV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005